

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 7, 10 and 11 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing discontinuous transmission in an asynchronous transfer mode ATM between a transcoder and a base transceiver station, comprising the steps of:

performing a [downlink] transmission of an ATM cell in a downlink direction each time a predetermined [number of] time period has expired, when signal frames indicating a speechless period are supplied; [and]

determining said predetermined time period by counting a predetermined number of said signal frames indicating a speechless period;

performing an uplink transmission of an ATM cell only when a signal frame indicating a useful information has been supplied-;

wherein frames containing speech information are transmitted to an ATM connection via an ATM interface,

whereas in case of frames containing a comfort noise information, only an ATM cell containing the first frame containing the comfort noise information is transmitted, wherein subsequent frames with comfort noise information lead to an initialization of a first counter and thereafter to a successive incrementation thereof until the first counter has counted to a defined value, wherein, when the defined value has been reached, an ATM cell containing the corresponding frame is transmitted to the ATM connection and

the processing starts again as long as subsequent frames with comfort noise information are transmitted,

wherein, in the uplink direction, when an ATM cell containing a frame indicating a timing alignment is received, a second counter is reset, and, with any subsequently received ATM cell, the second counter is incremented and the contained frame is passed to the transcoder until a predetermined count value has been reached,

when no ATM cells are received after the initial synchronization of the second counter, frames with information indicating a bad frame are generated and the second counter is incremented until the count value reaches the predetermined value, and

when ATM cells are received before the second counter has reached the predetermined value, the corresponding frames are passed to the transcoder while the counter is still incremented with any received ATM cell.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein an idle speech frame is generated, when no ATM cell has been received at a receiving end of the downlink transmission.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the last signal frame received at the receiving end of the downlink transmission and indicating a speechless period is repeated, when the number of ATM cells not received at the receiving end of

the downlink transmission corresponds to said predetermined number of signal frames after which an ATM cell is transmitted.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein [a] the first counter is initialized each time an ATM cell containing a signal frame indicating a speechless period has been received, and wherein said first counter is incremented each time no ATM cell has been received.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein a frame indicating a useless information is generated, when no ATM cell has been received at a receiving end of the uplink transmission.

6. (Original) A method according to claim [4] 5, wherein a time alignment flag (TAF) is set at the receiving end of the uplink transmission, when the number of ATM cells received or missed since the last setting of the time alignment flag corresponds to said predetermined number of signal frames.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein [a] the second counter is initialized when an ATM cell containing a set time alignment flag is received at the receiving end of the uplink transmission, and wherein said counter is incremented

each time an ATM cell is received or missed at the receiving end of the uplink transmission.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined number is determined on the basis of a discontinuous transmission period during said speechless period.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said uplink and downlink transmission is performed in a GSM system between the transcoder and the base transceiver station.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein a bad frame indicator flag [(BFI)], **BFI**, of a GSM speech frame is used to indicate a useless information in said uplink transmission.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein a silence predictor flag [(SID)], **SID**, of a GSM speech frame is set on the basis of a speech flag [(SP)], **SP**, of said GSM speech frame, and wherein said silence predictor flag is used to indicate said speechless period in said downlink transmission.
